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REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. No additional fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims is not more than three, and the total number of claims is not more than originally filed.

Request for Telephone Interview

Applicants kindly request the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (847) 490-1400 to schedule a telephone interview, to discuss the merits of this Patent Application.

Amendment to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of original Claim 21. Claims 10 and 21 have been canceled in view of amended Claim 1.

Claims 11 and 22-25 have been amended to correct dependencies, provide proper antecedent bases, and/or for clarity.

New Claim 26 finds support in original Claim 1, original Claim 21 and at page 15 of the Substitute Specification.

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New Claim 27 incorporates limitations of original Claims 1-2 and 12.

No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

Claim Objections

Claims 24 and 25 were objected to because “holding strip” lacked antecedent basis. Applicants have amended Claims 24 and 25 to depend from amended Claim 23. Applicants believe the above Amendment responds to and removes all claim objections.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of Claims 1-4, 17 and 19-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Shimada, Japanese Patent 08046381, is respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of original Claim 21.

Shimada does not provide or suggest all limitations of amended Claim 1. In rejecting original Claim 21, the Examiner alleges that element M4 in Shimada reads on Applicants’ claimed base part is and element N4 in Shimada reads on the claimed top part. Applicants respectfully disagree, elements M4 and N4 of Shimada are a nut and a bolt, wherein the bolt must pass through a hole in the component to be attached (GTR4 in Shimada). The groove insert of amended Claim 1 includes a

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fastening section which protrudes transversely from the top part of the groove insert and is spaced apart from a mounting level of the mounting plate. The groove insert of this invention secures the component in place by the fastening section extending over a portion of the component. Further, Claim 1 includes an attachment screw which passes through a threaded bore in the fastening section. Shimada does not teach a fastening section, a threaded bore in the fastening section, and/or an attachment screw. The threaded bore that was cited by the Examiner was the nut which must accept the bolt and therefore cannot accept the attachment screw as required by amended Claim 1.

The Shimada Patent thus does not provide or suggest Applicants' invention of Claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of Claims 5-11 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimada in view of Dessert, U.S. Patent No. 3,398,249, is respectfully traversed. These dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed herein for independent Claim 1.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the efforts in determining that Claims 12-16, 23, 24 and 25 contain allowable subject matter over the prior art of record. Applicants have created new Claim 27 which incorporates limitations of Claims 12 and 23 without limitations of the intervening claims.

Conclusion

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants have not addressed or resolved in this response, the undersigned attorney again requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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